

STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Upon entry of this reply, claims 1-40, 42 and 43 will remain pending.

Thus, claims 1-40, 42 and 43 are pending. Claims 41 and 44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Of the pending claims, claims 1-29 are original patent claims, and claims 30-40, 42 and 43 have been added in the instant reissue.

In the present amendment, the specification has been amended in the manner indicated to be allowable in the Final Office Action mailed December 15, 2005, and to include language presently included in claims that are no longer subjected to this objection/rejection.

Accordingly, entry of this amendment after final rejection is appropriate, because it places the application into condition for allowance.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As noted above, upon entry of this reply, claims 1-40, 42 and 43 will remain pending.

Claims 1-29 are original patent claims.

Claims 30-40, 42 and 43 have been added in the present reissue application.

Claims 41 and 42 are canceled.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Discussion Of Telephone Conversation

Applicants express appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner during a June 9, 2006 telephone interview with Applicants' representative Arnold Turk. During this telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that another Office Action would be mailed providing Applicants an opportunity to file an amendment to the specification and a supplemental declaration.

Response to New Matter Objection

The Amendment filed July 15, 2005 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

With regard to the specification, it is asserted that in column 14, lines 30-40, in the last sentence of the paragraph, Applicants have introduced the statement that, "...cooling of the outside surface of the CO oxidation unit is obtainable by atmospheric, raw material or water cooling." The objection contends that is unclear as to where support may be found in the original disclosure for the cooling to be conducted by "raw material or water cooling" since it appears that raw material and water are supplied to the apparatus as a mixture, thereby causing the cooling of the outside surface of the CO oxidation unit to be conducted by a "raw material and water mixture cooling." The objection relies upon the specific disclosure directed to Fig. 6 wherein raw material and water are introduced into a raw material supply path 6 arranged as a coil pattern around the outer side of the shift reaction unit 3 and the CO oxidation unit 4.

Applicants again submit that this ground of objection is without appropriate basis. However, to advance prosecution of the application, and without expressing agreement or acquiescence with the objection, Applicants have amended the specification in the manner suggested by the Examiner to place the application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Response To Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 251 And Submission of Supplemental Declaration

In response to the rejection of claims 1-40, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being based upon a defective reissue declaration, Applicants are submitting herewith a Supplemental Declaration executed by each of the inventors. The executed Supplemental Declaration includes language therein regarding errors made in the application including the errors corrected by the present amendment to the specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection and rejection of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Response or this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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